

From: Dan Lowe
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:46pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm writing to express my concern about this settlement.

It seems to me that under the proposed plan, Microsoft will be given a convenient way into the low-income education market, a market it currently does not control.

Why does the settlement work to actually extend their territory? Isn't part of the problem the existing scope of Microsoft's power? I don't feel it makes sense to reward Microsoft for their behavior. This is sort of like handing a bag full of money to a convicted thief and then handing him the keys to your car.

What is going to happen in a few years when the operating system and applications on the computers that these schools are given are hopelessly out of date? Microsoft will have a guaranteed source of income, because these schools will be forced to pay Microsoft's upgrade fees. These schools, by definition, can not afford to do so. This settlement puts money in the hands of Microsoft at the expense of the school districts.

If you are not familiar with the proposal that Redhat Software has made, you can read about it before continuing with my letter:

http://www.redhat.com/about/presscenter/2001/press_usschools.html

I support Redhat's proposal, simply because:

- A) it means that more computers can be purchased overall, which is a good thing all around.
- B) it means that when it comes time to upgrade the operating systems and applications on these computers, the schools will not be forced to pay Microsoft's upgrade fees. They will be able to upgrade at no cost (other than the cost of having some human being perform the work of upgrading - a cost that would be entailed in the original proposal anyway).

Permitting Microsoft to push its way into yet another market, extending the very monopoly power that we seek to control, is an unacceptable solution.

(I am not affiliated in any way with Redhat Software, nor do I own any stock in their company or any related company).

Thank you for your attention.

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